



# OFFICE OF THE STUDENT ADVOCATE

*District of Columbia Office of the Student Advocate supports students, parents, and families in their advocacy through parent education, one-on-one coaching, resource supports, and trainings in order to amplify the voices of families and communities in processes and decision-making; to provide avenues for access to resources and understanding systems; and to support power families and communities already possess.*



202-741-4692



student.advocate@dc.gov

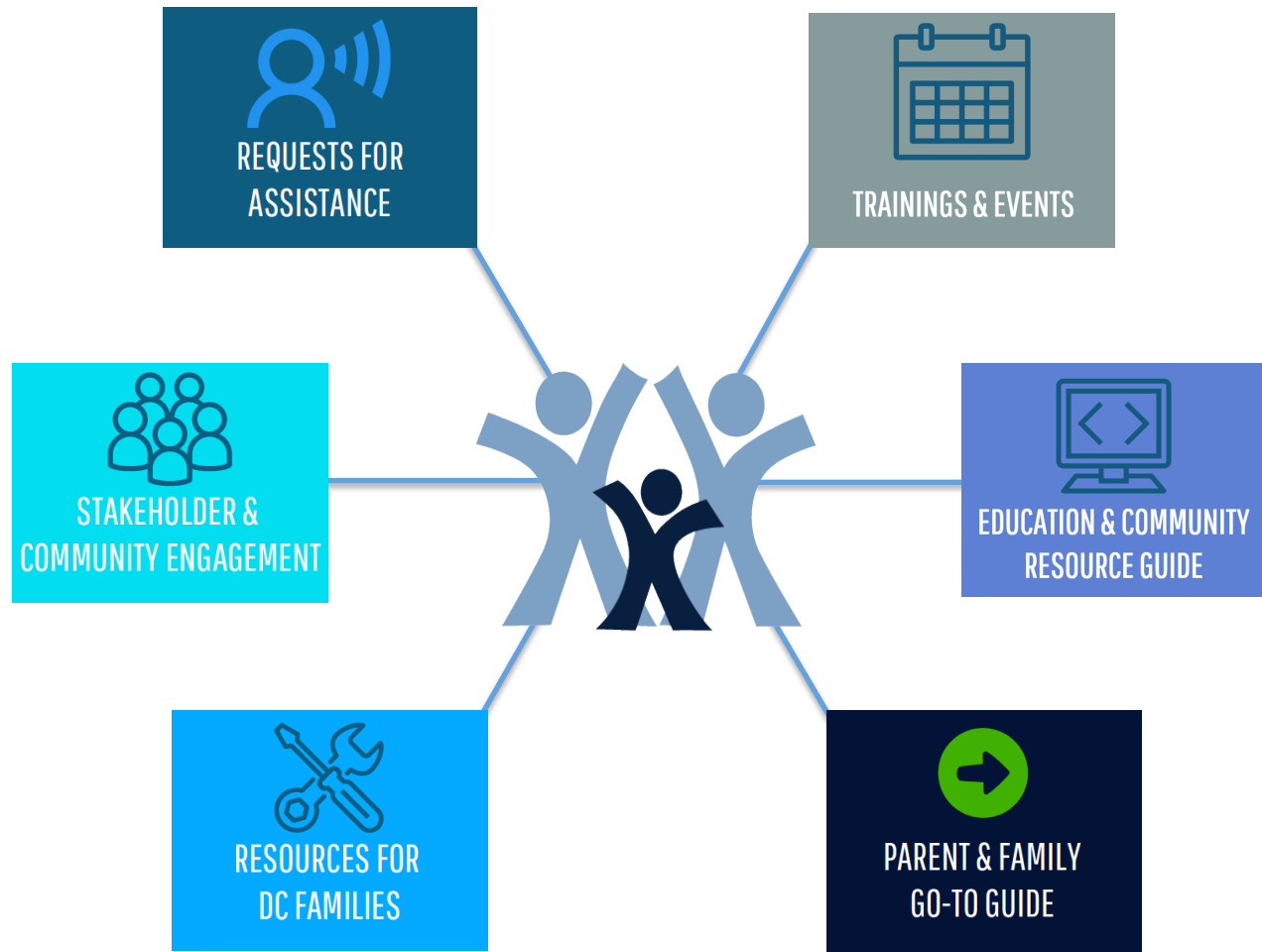


<http://studentadvocate.dc.gov>



@DC\_Advocate

# What We Do



We work in partnership to equalize the balance of power between families and schools by increasing family voice, access, and power in our system of public education. We achieve this goal by ensuring families are connected to resources and supports, informed of their rights, and understand how the system works.

# Request for Assistance (RFA) Line



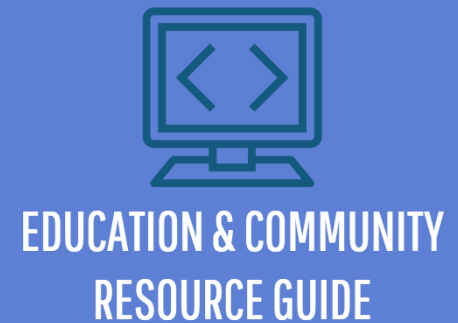
Our Request for Assistance line, a “311” system for public education, operates LIVE 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.

Reach us at [202.741.4692](tel:202.741.4692) for resources, referrals, and one-on-one coaching on all DC public education issues.

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## Education and Community Resource Guide

Our Online Education & Community Resource Guide is a continuously evolving resource that has more than 400 resource listings organized into 20 category areas. The first publicly available citywide initiative of its kind, the guide provides students, parents, families, and communities across all 8 wards with a roadmap to getting started in navigating the public education landscape in DC.



# Information and Advocacy Resources & Tools

We have a wealth of resources and interactive tools on a variety of topic areas available on our website, [studentadvocate.dc.gov](https://studentadvocate.dc.gov), including:

- Advocacy & Lobbying
- Attendance & Truancy
- Behavioral & Mental Health
- Bullying
- Effective Communication
- Enrollment
- Graduation Requirements
- Homelessness
- Parent Leadership
- Right to Know Ask Sheets
- Safe Passage
- Special Education
- Student Leadership
- Testing & Assessment
- Parent & Family Go-To Guide



RESOURCES FOR  
DC FAMILIES



STAKEHOLDER &  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Annual and Quarterly Reports

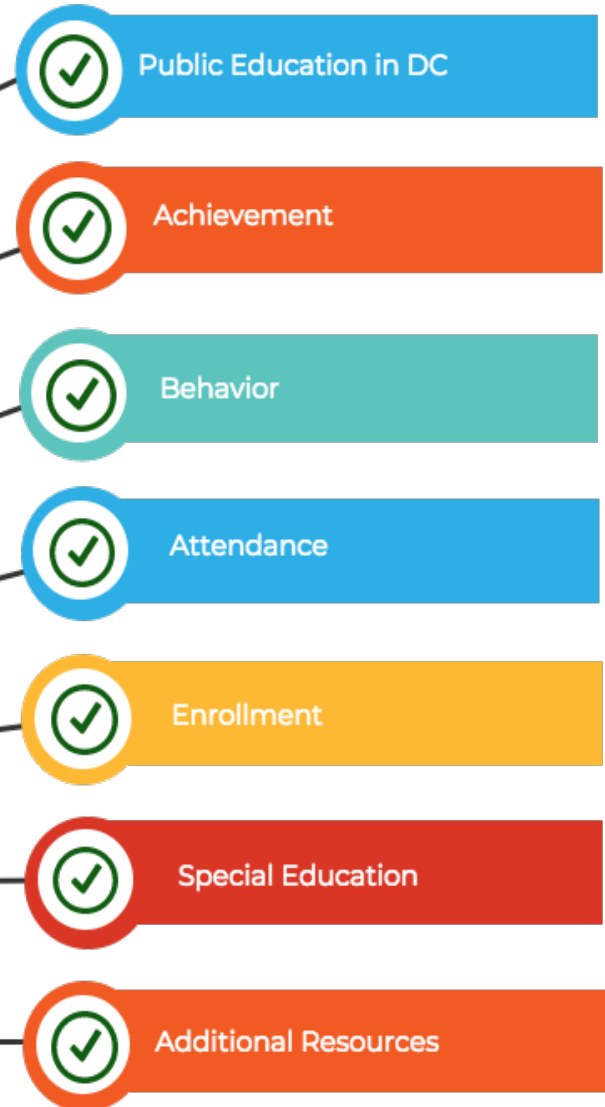
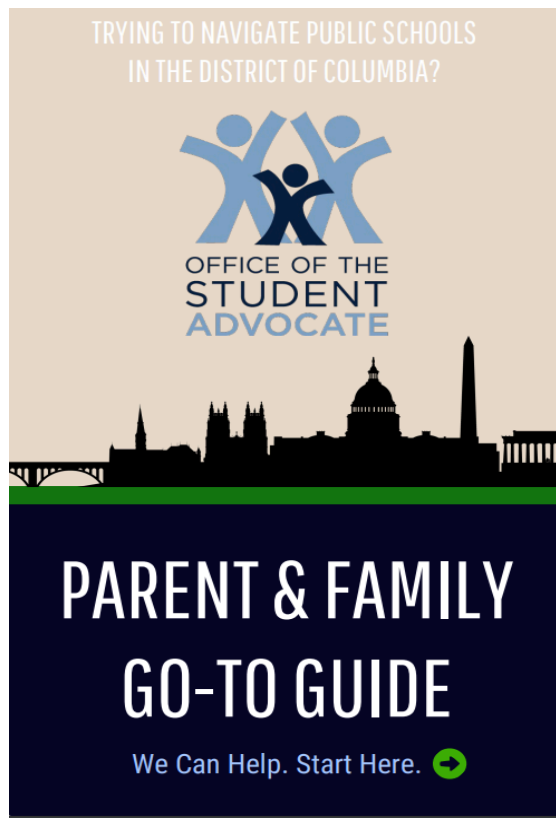
Yearly, our office submits an annual report summarizing the office's work during the previous academic year. We also include our vision for family engagement and equity and offer recommendations to address the city's top public education concerns. Our quarterly reports summarize office activities every 90 days.

To access our reports, log on to [studentadvocate.dc.gov](https://studentadvocate.dc.gov).

# Parent & Family Go-To Guide

Our Go-To Guide includes some information and resources we offer on our website in one handy document.

Topics include:



Available at [studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov)  
under the [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#) section.

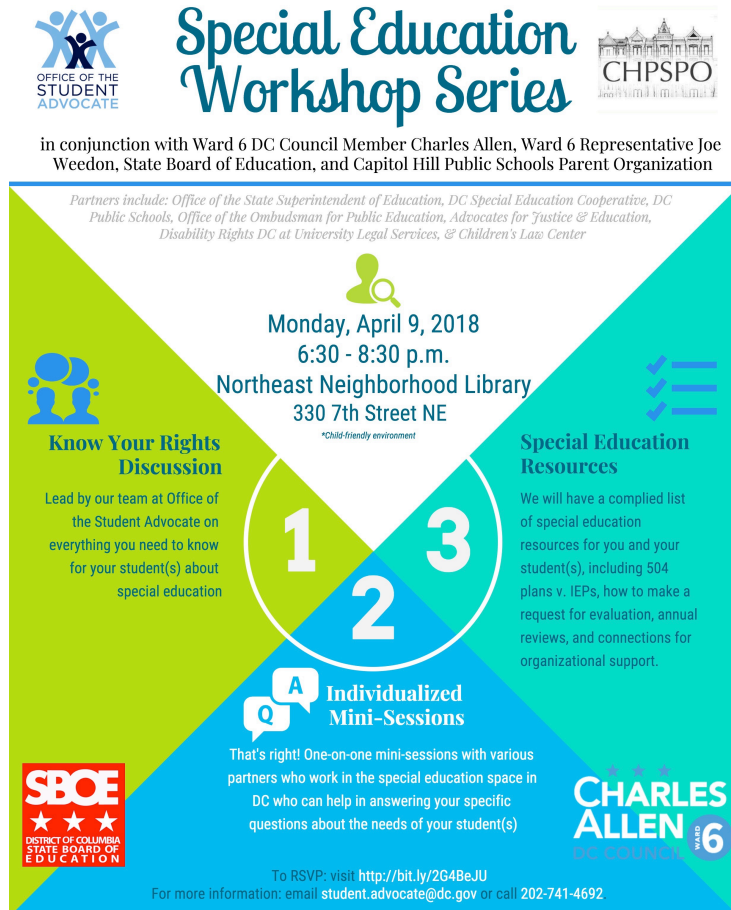
# Trainings and Events



Our trainings and outreach efforts allow us to connect with families and communities around topic areas of interest.

Visit <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/training-events> for trainings & events, both past and upcoming.

# SPED Workshop Series



The poster is a diamond-shaped graphic divided into four colored quadrants: green (top-left), blue (top-right), yellow (bottom-left), and red (bottom-right). In the center, a white circle contains the numbers 1, 2, and 3. The top of the poster features the Office of the Student Advocate logo, the title 'Special Education Workshop Series', and the CHPSPO logo. Below the title, it lists partners in conjunction with Ward 6 DC Council Member Charles Allen, Ward 6 Representative Joe Weedon, State Board of Education, and Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization. The top quadrant lists partners including the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, DC Special Education Cooperative, DC Public Schools, Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education, Advocates for Justice & Education, Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services, and Children's Law Center. The green quadrant (1) is titled 'Know Your Rights Discussion' and mentions the Office of the Student Advocate. The blue quadrant (3) is titled 'Special Education Resources' and mentions a compiled list of resources. The yellow quadrant (2) is titled 'Individualized Mini-Sessions' and mentions one-on-one sessions with various partners. The red quadrant features the SBOE logo and Charles Allen's name and ward number. The bottom of the poster includes RSVP information and contact details.

**Special Education Workshop Series**

in conjunction with Ward 6 DC Council Member Charles Allen, Ward 6 Representative Joe Weedon, State Board of Education, and Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization

Partners include: Office of the State Superintendent of Education, DC Special Education Cooperative, DC Public Schools, Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education, Advocates for Justice & Education, Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services, & Children's Law Center

**Monday, April 9, 2018**  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Northeast Neighborhood Library  
330 7th Street NE  
*\*Child-friendly environment*

**1 Know Your Rights Discussion**  
Lead by our team at Office of the Student Advocate on everything you need to know for your student(s) about special education

**2 Individualized Mini-Sessions**  
That's right! One-on-one mini-sessions with various partners who work in the special education space in DC who can help in answering your specific questions about the needs of your student(s)

**3 Special Education Resources**  
We will have a compiled list of special education resources for you and your student(s), including 504 plans v. IEPs, how to make a request for evaluation, annual reviews, and connections for organizational support.

**SBOE**  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**CHARLES ALLEN**  
WARD 6  
DC COUNCIL

To RSVP: visit <http://bit.ly/2G4BeJU>  
For more information: email [student.advocate@dc.gov](mailto:student.advocate@dc.gov) or call 202-741-4692.

Our presentation and webinar, “Transforming Emotions to Effective Advocacy: Understanding the Issues Surrounding Special Education Rights in DC”, are available on our website, along with other resources, including:

- Right to Know on SPED
- Right to Know on RTI
- SPED Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions
- DC SPED resources
- Understanding the Difference between 504s and IEPs

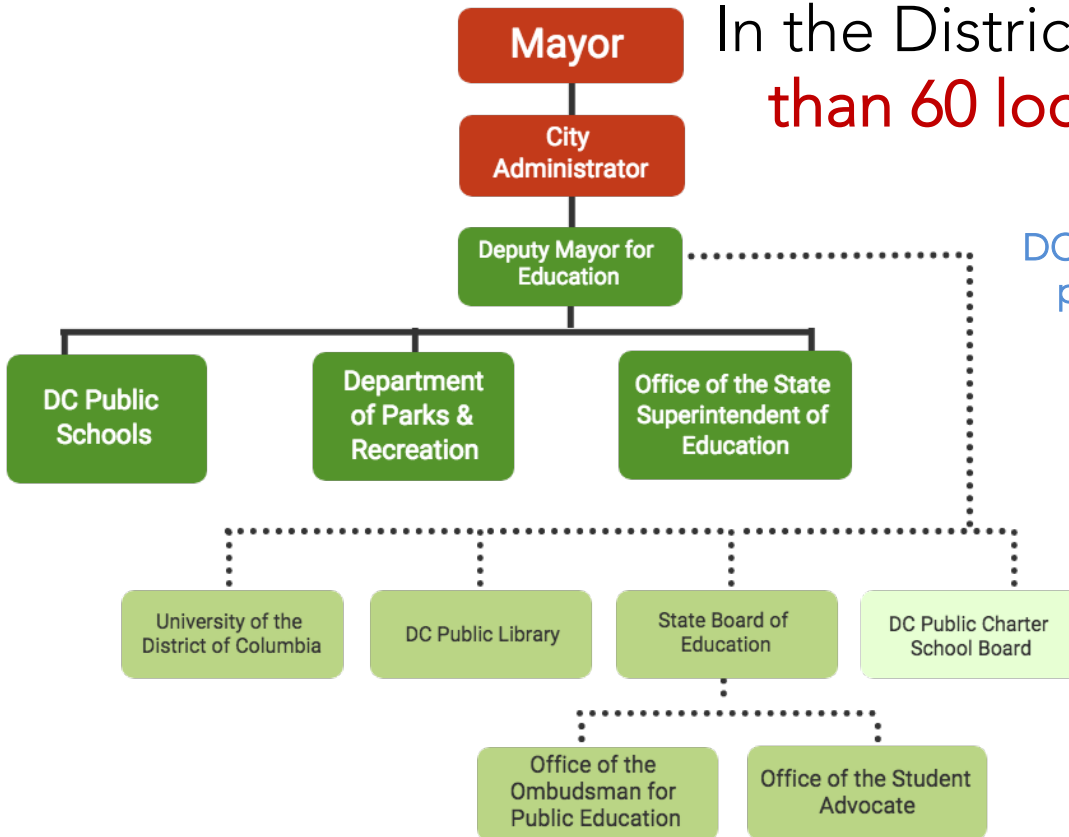
Resources available at [studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov)  
under **Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools** section.

# Understanding Public Education Governance

In the District of Columbia, we have **more than 60 local education agencies (LEAs) or individual school districts.**

DC Public Schools (DCPS) and each of the individual public charter school networks are school districts.

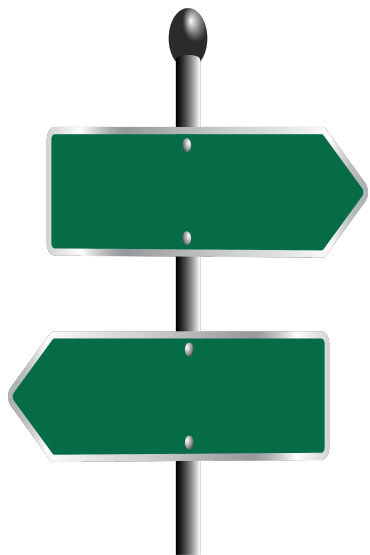
This structure alone, and a family's ability to navigate it, can be a barrier. To support families in this journey, we have created a very detailed resource to reduce confusion and increase awareness and access.



For more information about the structure of public education in DC, visit [studentadvocate.dc.gov](https://studentadvocate.dc.gov) and click on the **Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools** tab.

# Safe Passage Work & Tools

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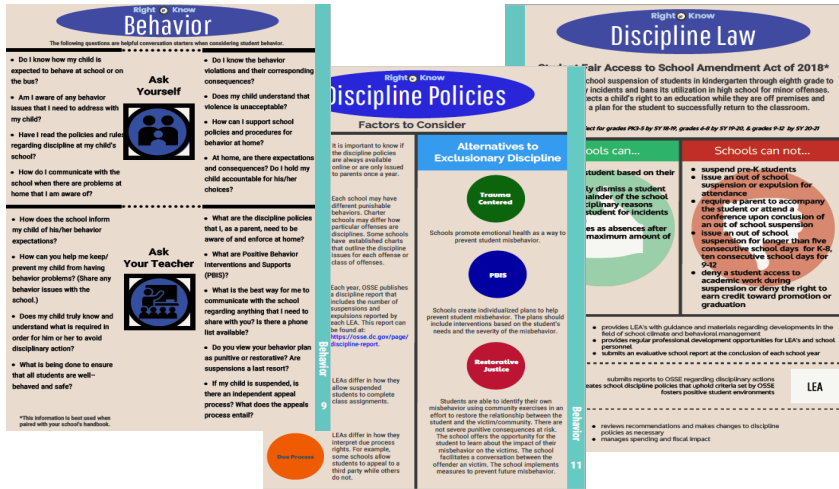
The safe passage of our students - to school, through school, and getting home from school – is a top issue for many public school students and families. In an effort to address these vital concerns and ever present issues, our office undertook the following:

- Convened safe passage working group;
- Held stakeholder conversations with school leaders about building out safe passage programs or implementing safe passage models;
- Conducted community focused surveys;
- Organized safe passage community canvassing and asset mapping;
- Launched a Twitter campaign to promote awareness; and,
- Develop a Safe Passage Toolkit resource



To learn more about our safe passage resources & Safe Passage Toolkit visit [studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov) under the [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#) section.

# Discipline Work & Resources



Since 2016, our office, in partnership with the Council for Court Excellence and Howard University School of Law, has worked to analyze student discipline policies from each local education agency (LEA) in the city.

- We presented analysis in our 2017 Annual Report we presented a detailed analysis and policy recommendations with a on family engagement focus in discipline policy construction & implementation.
- From that analysis we created our **Right to Know** ask sheets topics specific to behavior, the local discipline law, and school-based discipline policies.

Our discipline resources are available online at [studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov) under the **Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools** tab.



# Equitable Family Engagement

## Equitable Family Engagement in Policy

*How to Better Serve Students by Including Family Voice in Policy Making*

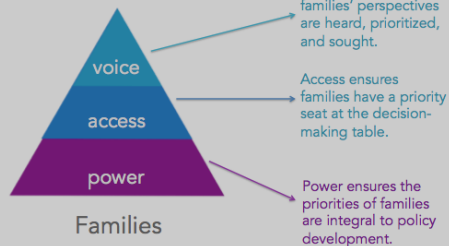
### Office of the Student Advocate

Faith Gibson Hubbard, Chief Student Advocate  
Dan Davis, Student Advocate  
Tiffany Wilson, Program Associate

Community Schools National Forum 2018 (Baltimore, Maryland)

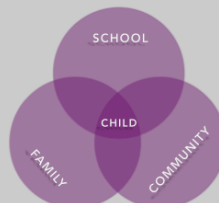
In May 2018 we shared our work regarding equitable family engagement at the Community Schools National Forum in Baltimore, MD. In our workshop, we were able to highlight the need for family partnership by conducting a root cause analysis with our 50 workshop participants in order to connect the lack of voice, access, and power to systemic disparities.

## Defining and Supporting Equity



## Family Engagement: What It *Should* Be

"Gaps in educational opportunity and achievement will only be remedied when...parents, families, and communities are driving decision-making."  
- Every Student Succeeds Act summary by the Leadership Conference Education Fund



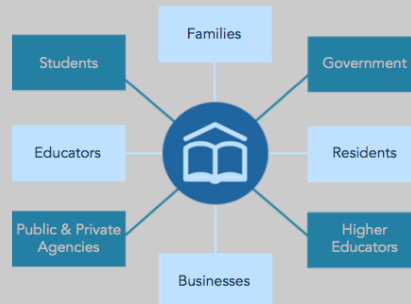
Epstein, J.L. (2009). Conceptualizing and Defining Family Involvement for Research: Setting New Directions (PowerPoint Slides). Retrieved from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/471/epstein/pdfs/471.epstein.pdf>

In Fall 2018, we have partnered with the DC State Board of Education to move forward to the conversation of designing a citywide, and school level, family engagement framework. Authentic engagement of families and communities should be a mandatory part of the policy process.

Policy Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Stakeholders	Characteristics			
	What has been their involvement in the issue?	What is their stance on the issue?	What type of power/influence do they hold?	How does this issue impact them?
Stakeholder Group #1				
Stakeholder Group #2				
Stakeholder Group #3				
Stakeholder Group #4				

## Education Stakeholders

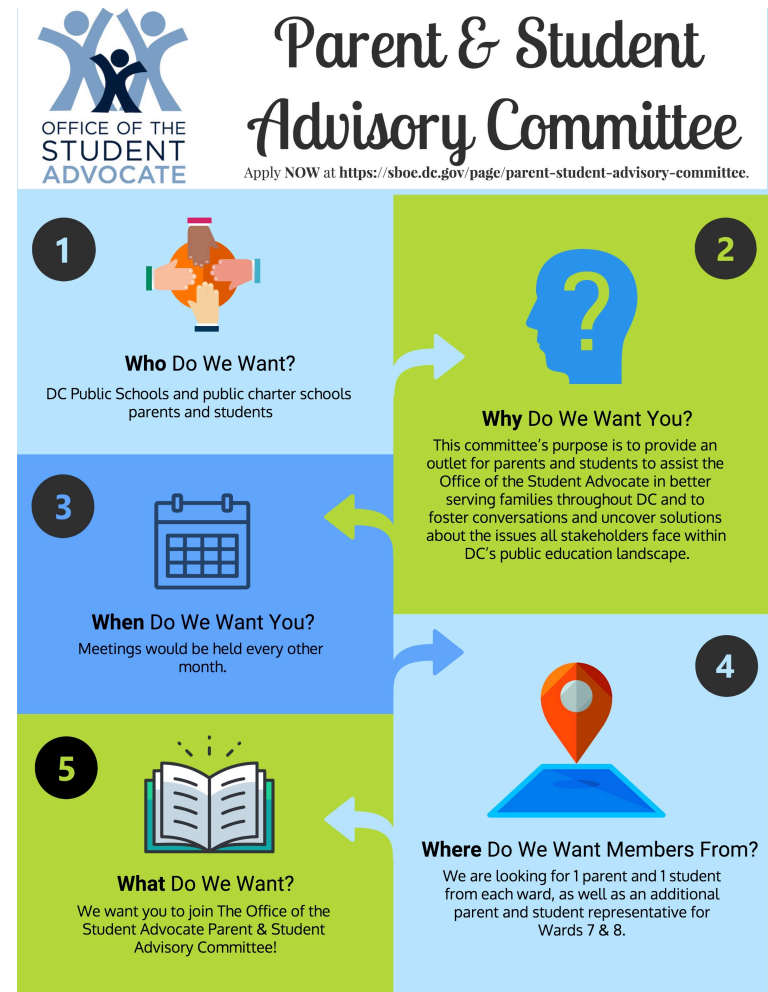


# Parent & Student Leadership

In order to make our system of public education in the District a more effective, responsive, and equitable system for all students, the inclusion of the voices of students and families in the process of decision-making in public education and planning is essential.



Resources available at [studentadvocate.dc.gov](https://studentadvocate.dc.gov)  
click on [Information & Advocacy Resources and Tools](#).



DC students and parents can apply now at [studentadvocate.dc.gov](https://studentadvocate.dc.gov)!

# Citywide Bullying Workshop

In addition to hosting our bullying workshop in April, we've added bullying resources to our website:

- Bullying Quicksheet
- Bullying Stats
- OHR's Know Your Policy Portal



Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. Bullying can be prevented, especially when the power of a community is brought together.

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Los padres, el personal educativo y otros adultos que se preocupan sobre el problema tienen un rol que desempeñar en la prevención del acoso. El acoso puede prevenirse, especialmente cuando toda una comunidad se une para tal fin.

We will post the recording with workshop participants during Fall 2018 on our site at [studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov).

Servicios de idiomas disponibles.  
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 <p><b>When:</b> Monday April 23, 2018 6:30pm - 8:30pm</p>	 <p><b>Where:</b> Petworth Neighborhood Library 4200 Kansas Ave NW Washington, DC 20011</p>	 <p><b>Who:</b> Dave Trachtenberg, <i>Minds</i> Suzanne Greenfield, <i>Citywide Youth Bullying Prevention Program</i> Tia Marie Brumstead, <i>E.L. Haynes PCS</i> Cameron Shields, <i>Safer Stronger DC</i> and more!!!</p>
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Let us help you with  
navigating public  
schools in the  
District of  
Columbia...



Call us at [202.741.4692](tel:202.741.4692)  
Check out all of our resources online at  
[studentadvocate.dc.gov](http://studentadvocate.dc.gov).